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Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

Conservation—more than a name

Each day, as each of us focuses on our immediate tasks, it is easy to overlook the fruits of our efforts all of us in the department are achieving together.

A recent trip to eastern Maine to attend meetings provided me an opportunity to see the concrete accomplishments being made by every program in the department. With field season underway, the worth of our programs to Maine citizens and our visitors was especially evident—the full campgrounds, boats on the water, the extreme dry woods conditions and the extensive damage done to the forest by the hemlock looper. I was struck by the visual experience of just how much each of you is doing for the state and for the people of Maine.

We viewed many of the lands the department is working to protect, conserve and manage. Just some of the ones we saw included Stockton Springs, Holbrook Island, Tunk Lake, the Machias River, Cutler, Cobscook State Park, Spednic Lake, St. Croix River and many boat access sites, trails and campsites in the eastern Maine region.

But whether it is on land directly managed by the department or on other lands we affect through our programs, you can literally see on the face of the earth how these programs help conserve the landscape—through the results of the forest practices act, Public Lands' land management procedures, Geology's geologic and wetlands evaluations, LURC's comprehensive plan, Forestry's fire protection, management assistance and insect detection, the work of the Land For Maine's Future Board or our partnerships with private organizations and municipalities. Conservation. It is easy to get used to the word in our daily lives, but it's much more. It's a truly powerful force. It is very evident, that whatever your bureau or program, together in the department we are truly making a difference—and each of you plays a key role. Together our DOC team is accomplishing significant and lasting achievement, assuring the future of Maine's natural resources through direct action now.

With all the attention on the Rio Earth Summit, it is rewarding to know each of you is doing your part—and making a difference.

Oh yes, the meeting was successful. But most of all I felt proud of this department, seeing the results of what you are doing. These results are real and they show. Each of you should feel proud and rewarded for your successes.

Ed Meadows

MCC Receives Federal Grant

The Maine Conservation Corps has just been awarded a major grant by the Commission on National and Community Service. Funds received through the grant will enable the Maine Conservation Corps to expand to a year round program. Three full-time MCC crews will be established and participate for 14 months. The Corpsmembers will be trained for natural resource related jobs by working on public service conservation projects and attending college part time during the academic year. Half of the funds will be awarded in subgrants to local communities and organizations to develop additional service corps programs around the state.

Conservation Highlights

Robin Smith and **George Ritz** of the Bureau of Public Lands' Eastern Region and BPL Augusta staff met with the Cutler Management Unit Advisory Committee to discuss the unit's draft management plan. •• BPL recently closed with a private seller on the purchase of 34.9 acres in Topsham. This purchase will enlarge the bureau's Baxter Forest tract and connect it to land managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. •• **Tom Morrison** and **Del Ramey** of BPL and **Steve Levesque** of LURC's Planning Division recently attended the St. John River Advisory Committee trip. Del was trip chair. •• **Andrea Lapointe**, Land Use Regulation Commission education coordinator, and **Patty Bailey**, Bureau of Parks and Recreation naturalist, participated in a program, "Outdoor Teaching in Hard Times," presented by the Maine Environmental Education Association's Education Exchange at the Maine Conservation School at Bryant Pond. •• **Harry Doughty**, forest fire support supervisor, recently ran 12 miles to raise money to benefit the Special Olympics. •• BPL's Submerged Lands Program staff **Matthew Bley** and **Carol DiBello** are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to inventory and register all structures along the coast of Maine. •• **Ellen Farese**, LURC cartographer, attended a workshop in Yarmouth regarding the latest mapping technology. •• **Bill Getchell**, federal property screener, has obtained more than \$275,000 worth of excess military 4x4's and various other fire fighting equipment for the MFS and several communities. •• BPL planning team members **Henry Whittemore**, **Craig Ten Broeck** and **Steve Spencer**, and **Jim Ecker**, forester of the Old Town office, hiked the Nahmakanta roadless area to see what resource values need to be considered in the planning process for the newly acquired Nahmakanta Unit. •• The Cold Stream Pond Fire, which burned 200 acres near The Forks, was caused by someone using a chainsaw. The MFS continues to investigate the cause of the 1,100 acre Allagash Fire. •• BPL's Eastern Region coordinated a training session between LURC and MFS (Fire Control Division) on road construction techniques and erosion control measures. Attendees included: **Charles Corliss**, LURC; **Joe Pelletier** and **Gary Spooner**, MFS; and BPL staff **Robin Smith**, **George Ritz**, **Gail Tunstead** and **Jim Ecker**. •• Nearly 450 forest fires burned about 2,900 acres in April and May compared to 677 fires and 2,600 acres for the same period last year. Open burning restrictions, implemented by MFS this spring, seem to have paid off in fewer fire starts. •• BPL opened 7 bids for the Outlet Road in the Seboeis Unit. •• MGS is beginning field work in the Houlton area on this year's Significant Sand and Gravel Aquifers mapping program. •• The Geological Survey's summer CREST intern program for earth science teachers is about to begin. Ten teachers will work on projects with earth scientists in state and federal agencies and will use this experience to develop new classroom lessons for the CREST activity book. **Duane Leavitt** and **Woody Thompson** have completed two CREST videotapes, "Maine's Water Resources" and "The Ice Age in Maine." The tapes will be distributed to Maine teachers. •• **Frank Appleby** and **Joe Powers** recently qualified to be

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